



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JUN 12 2015

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Franziska
West Hills Middle School
2601 Lone Pine Road
Bloomfield Township, Michigan 48323

Dear Franziska:

Thank you very much for your letter dated May 19, 2015, concerning air pollution from mining activities. Part of EPA's mission is to protect human health and the environment from the negative effects of air pollution. We work hard to ensure that activities which have the potential to generate harmful air pollution are regulated, so that emissions are reduced or eliminated. Mining activities do indeed create dust (we call this kind of dust "fugitive dust" because it does not come from a smoke stack), and some regulations are in place that require mining operations to work to reduce fugitive dust while they mine. However, we are continually looking for ways to better regulate industries, and to ensure that everyone is following all of the existing laws.

I hope you maintain your interest in protecting human health and the environment. Please don't hesitate to contact us again if you have additional concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Breneman".

Sara J. Breneman, Chief
Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch
EPA, Region 5